



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Contractors honored for outstanding work

Several private contractors are receiving accolades from WisDOT for their role in building high-quality transportation projects in Wisconsin last year. The firms were honored January 16th at the annual Contractor/Engineer Conference. Multiple criteria are used to judge projects including schedule, quality, complexity, innovation, teamwork and safety. Categories, winning contractors and projects include:

- **Grading:** Hoffman Construction Company of Black River Falls for its work as the grading contractor for a nine-mile, \$6.5 million project on WIS 35 in Burnett County.
- **Asphalt paving:** MCC, Inc. of Appleton for a \$5 million, 10.5-mile asphalt paving job on US 45 in Waupaca County.
- **Concrete paving:** Michels Corporation of Brownsville for its work on a \$12 million warranted concrete pavement project near the villages of Coleman and Pound in Marinette County.
- **Small structures:** Edward Kraemer and Sons of Plain for their work on the North Bridge over the Root River in Racine.
- **Large structures:** Lunda Construction of Black River Falls for building the \$5 million Fox River Bridge in the city of Neenah.
- **Airport construction:** Monarch Paving of Amery for its work reconstructing, widening, and extending pavements at the Rice Lake Airport.

Training underway for State Patrol recruits

Some 43 recruits ranging in age from 21 to 40 are currently undergoing training at the Wisconsin State Patrol Academy at Fort McCoy. The future troopers or inspectors will undergo an intense 21-week training program that will cover firearms proficiency, pursuit and arrest tactics, training in communications, crash investigations, criminal and traffic law, and emergency lifesaving techniques. A graduation ceremony is planned for June 15 at the State Capitol. Once officially sworn in and assigned to one of five regions around the state, troopers will generally work patrolling highways to enforce traffic safety and criminal laws, while inspectors are responsible for enforcement of motor carrier (large truck and bus) safety laws.

Counties, State patrol teaming up to enforce traffic laws

Ten southern Wisconsin counties and two Wisconsin State Patrol regions will be stepping up traffic enforcement this year thanks to federal safety funding. The counties and state patrol regions are eligible for up to \$30,000 each for intensified enforcement actions, principally along I-39/90 and I-94 corridors from the southern state line to Juneau County. Each agency will be patrolling for longer hours throughout the year and will be teaming up for intensified enforcement mobilizations just before Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. The goal is to discourage speeding and aggressive driving in an effort to enhance safety for all motorists. Counties participating include: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Rock, Dane, Columbia, Sauk and Juneau.

COMING UP

WTBA annual convention February 19 – 20, Kohler, Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association annual convention is set for February 19 – 20 at the American Club in Kohler. Sessions during the two-day conference will include federal and state funding/budget issues, construction claims, fuel costs and crisis communications. More information can be found at www.wtba.org.

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